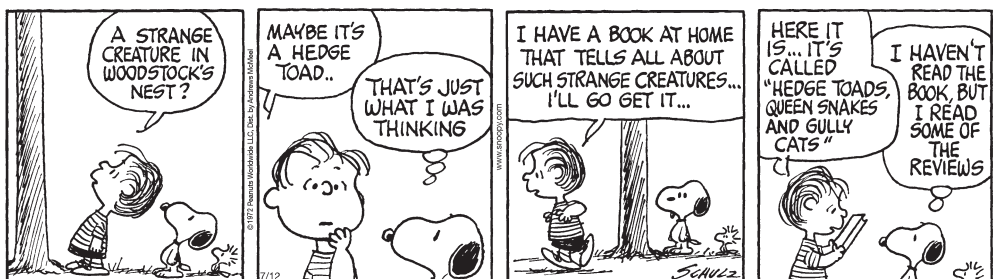


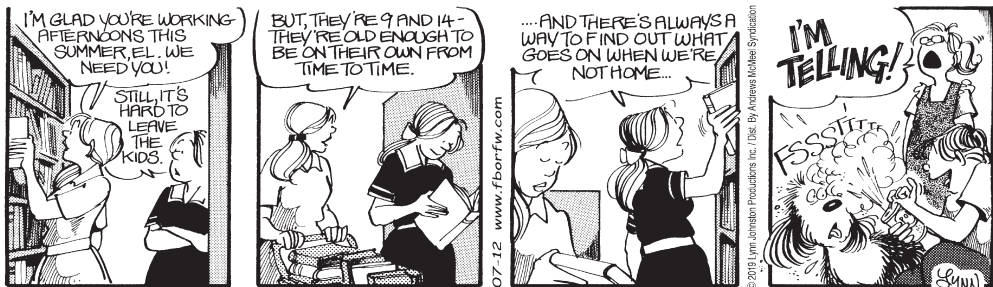
PEANUTS

BY CHARLES M. SCHULZ



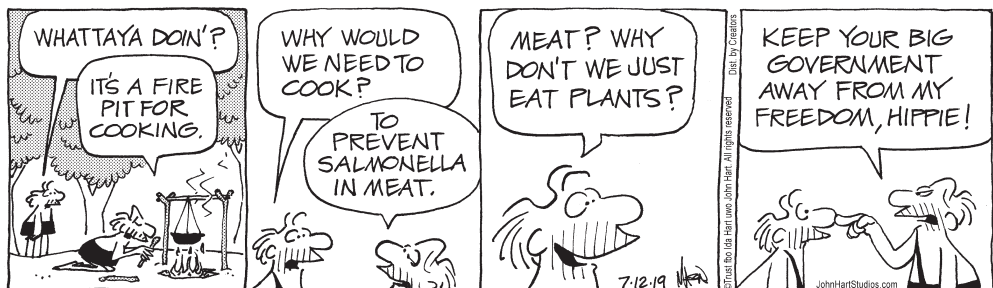
FOR BETTER OR WORSE

BY LYNN JOHNSTON



B.C.

BY JOHNNY HART



PICKLES

BY BRIAN CRANE



BETLE BAILEY

BY MORT WALKER



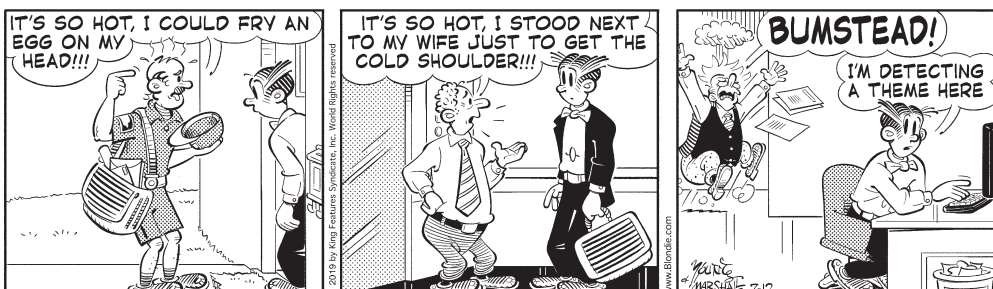
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BY JIM DAVIS



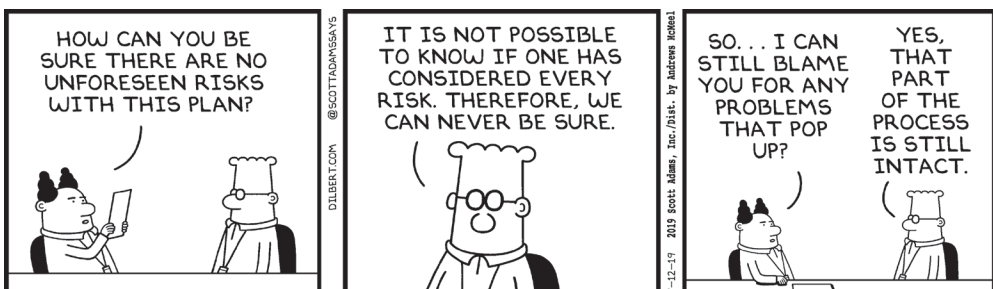
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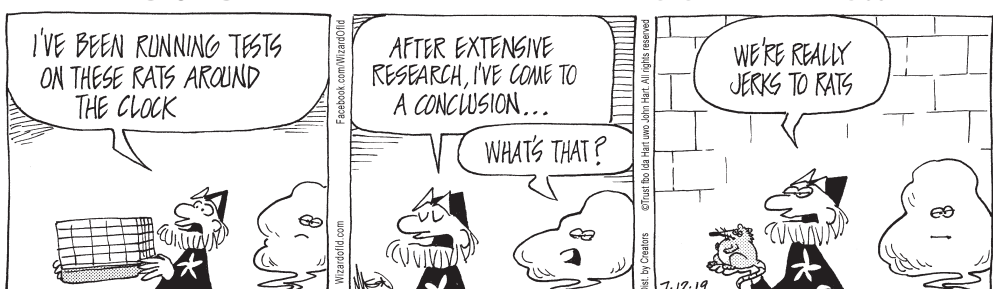
DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS



THE WIZARD OF ID

BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART



LUANN

BY GREG EVANS



ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



DEAR ABBY

Shop owner reluctant to fire employee in personal crisis



JEANNE PHILLIPS ADVICE

Dear Abby: I own a small retail shop. One of my employees (I'll call her Sara) has been with us for a number of years. Until recently she's been a stellar employee. She has been through several traumas during the past year, including the death of her father, unexpected injuries and medical bills, and finding out that her husband had molested her teenage daughter and other girls as well. It has been enough to drive anyone over the edge of emotional stability, and she has been noticeably struggling.

to Sara again. Explain that you are receiving complaints from customers and what they have been saying. Give her another chance to improve. If one of your other employees can cover for Sara for a week or two, let Sara have a brief leave of absence to regroup. However, if the complaints persist, let her go, because what's going on isn't about her or you, it's about the health of your business.

Sara has seen a doctor and is seeing a therapist for this, but she's still having a difficult time. These things don't heal overnight. I understand that.

Dear Abby: My husband is 67 and at least 45 pounds overweight. His breasts could fill a C-cup bra, and his belly looks nine months pregnant. Problem is, he wears running shorts around the house and no shirt. Everything hangs out regardless of whether we're alone or have family visiting. It's embarrassing.

Brick-and-mortar retail pretty much runs on presenting a cheerful face, happily engaging with customers and answering their questions — something Sara has been emotionally unable to do. Customers have begun complaining to me about her moodiness and saying she has been ignoring them. I've talked to her about this a couple of times now, and each time she says she'll do better, but she hasn't.

When I ask him to dress or at least put on a shirt, he says it's his home, he can dress any way he wants, and if someone disapproves, they can leave. That's exactly what I am ready to do. I am disgusted seeing him look like this. Also, when we are alone, he tends to skinny dip in our swimming pool.

Abby, she's been through so much, I'm reluctant to add to her trauma by letting her go, but I feel I'm being backed into a corner here. Is there a solution I'm not seeing or something I can say that will help resolve this without having to let her go? There isn't any work currently available that doesn't require customer interaction, or else I'd ask her to do that. — Bad For Business

I'm afraid our 18-year marriage is over. For the last five years we have lived like roommates with separate bedrooms. Do you agree I should leave? He flat-out refuses any counseling for us. — Looking The Other Way

Dear B.F.B.: You are a caring employer — more than most would be, considering the shape that retail is in these days. Talk

Dear Looking: You are asking me a question I can't answer for you. Because your husband refuses counseling doesn't mean you couldn't benefit from talking to someone, in light of the fact that you are contemplating such a life-changing decision. Please go, because the answer to your question lies within yourself.

DAYS GONE BY

100 Years Ago From the East Oregonian July 12, 1919

The Red Cross canteen in Pendleton will continue its activities for some time although canteens in many parts of the northwest are closing save for special occasions, such as the arrival of troop trains. Because trains pass through Pendleton during the breakfast, luncheon and dinner hours, it is thought advisable to keep the canteen open for the regular meals as well as for the arrival of special troop trains.

this month. But he said county crews can't work the new road into their construction schedule until fall.

25 Years Ago From the East Oregonian July 12, 1994

Smith Frozen Foods, Inc. in Weston, one of the region's largest vegetable processors, will be sending a different kind of green to the Centerville Medical Center in Athena. Up to \$10,000. "It's fantastic," said organizer Cathy Roscoe. "If we can raise \$10,000 and have them match it we can finish the clinic." Roscoe, along with her husband, Dick, has spearheaded the effort to open a health clinic in Athena's old printer's building. Smith promised last week to match dollar for dollar up to \$10,000 during 1994. That means there may be enough money to pay for a full renovation after more than a year of fund raising. Around \$20,000 is needed to complete the clinic, Roscoe says, and if the community continues to contribute it may open its doors as early as Sept. 1.

50 Years Ago From the East Oregonian July 12, 1969

The Condon City Council will share the cost of helping to keep the old landfill in order — with a bulldozer — until the Gilliam County Road Department builds a road to a new location for the landfill. That decision was made Wednesday when Elmer McKinney, who has the garbage franchise, asked for help. State health authorities have ordered McKinney to open a new landfill

TODAY IN HISTORY

On July 12, 1984, Democratic presidential candidate Walter F. Mondale announced his choice of U.S. Rep. Geraldine A. Ferraro of New York to be his running-mate; Ferraro was the first woman to run for vice president on a major-party ticket.

In 1960, the Etch A Sketch Magic Screen drawing toy, invented by French electrician Andre Cassagne, was first produced by the Ohio Art Co.

folk, Virginia. In 2005, Prince Albert II of Monaco acceded to the throne of a 700-year-old dynasty.

In 1543, England's King Henry VIII married his sixth and last wife, Catherine Parr. In 1817, author, poet and naturalist Henry David Thoreau was born in Concord, Massachusetts.

In 1967, rioting erupted in Newark, New Jersey, over the police beating of a black taxi driver; 26 people were killed in the five days of violence that followed.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Monte Hellman is 90. Actress Denise Nicholas is 75. Actress Mel Harris is 63. Actor Buddy Foster is 62. Olympic gold medal figure skater Kristi Yamaguchi is 48. Rhythm-and-blues singer Tracie Spencer is 43. Actress Michelle Rodriguez is 41. Actor Bernard David Jones is 34. Actress Ta'Rhonda Jones is 31. Actress Rachel Brosnahan is 29. Actor Erik Per Sullivan is 28. Nobel Peace laureate Malala Yousafzai is 22.

In 1862, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln signed a bill authorizing the Army Medal of Honor.

In 1977, President Jimmy Carter defended Supreme Court limits on government payments for poor women's abortions, saying, "There are many things in life that are not fair."

Thought for Today: "A man who fears suffering is already suffering from what he fears." — Michel de Montaigne, French philosopher (1533-1592).

In 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower was flown by helicopter from the White House to a secret mountain-top location as part of a drill involving a mock nuclear attack on Washington.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton, visiting Germany, went to the eastern sector of Berlin, the first U.S. president to do so since Harry Truman.

In 2003, the USS Ronald Reagan, the first carrier named for a living president, was commissioned in Nor-

PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN

BY DANA SIMPSON



BIG NATE

BY LINCOLN PEIRCE

